

Partners...



*A newsletter for the partners and providers of FREE to Know - the Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening and Detection Program
July 2003*

Director's Corner...

We have once again been successful in obtaining the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program grant for the time period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 to pay for eligible women to participate in the FREE to Know Program. We sincerely appreciate our many FREE to Know Providers and Subcontractors, and anticipate another successful year providing breast and cervical services.

As always, we appreciate your support and participation in the FREE to Know Program. We look forward to assisting you in providing services to eligible women.

Janet Neff, Director

Cancer Prevention and Control Program

New Billing System

As the program begins a new fiscal year, we are in the process of implementing an entirely new billing system. This system, when fully operational, will allow subcontractors to submit their bills directly to the Billing Specialist, Toni Merrill, in Topeka, rather than to their Provider. The billing specialist will reimburse the subcontractor directly. However, all client reports, diagnostic information, etc., will continue to be submitted to their "Provider" and the Provider will continue to send all client information to the Regional Nurse.

This new system will alleviate the Provider writing checks to subcontractors, and will provide a more reliable tracking mechanism for unpaid services provided by subcontractors. Your Regional Nurse will be contacting you in the next few months about this process as it is implemented in your county.

Who is Eligible for FREE to Know?

We frequently receive calls about eligibility. Since we are grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we must adhere to the federal guidelines. The program is designed to provide Pap tests, Clinical Breast Exams and Mammograms for women age 50-64, with women 40-49 accepted for Paps and CBE. Women 40-49 may also qualify for Mammograms if they are symptomatic or have a family history of breast cancer. The income guidelines change each year based on 250% of poverty level (as listed in the FREE to Know brochure.) Women under the age of 40, or over the age of 64 are NOT eligible for the program.

However, FREE to Know partners such as the Susan G. Komen Foundation can sometimes provide funding for services provided to women not covered by FREE to Know. If you have questions regarding eligibility, please contact your Regional Nurse.

Mammogram Recommendations and FREE to Know

Recent new guidelines for age and frequency of mammograms have prompted several of our providers and partners to ask if there will be any changes in covered services (especially for younger women) through FREE to Know. No changes in eligibility guidelines are planned at this time.

Focus On...

Northwest Kansas.... We are saying goodbye to our regional nurse, Darleen Bradford, RN. Darlene has been the Northwest Kansas FREE to Know nurse for many years and we'll miss her expertise and her cheerful attitude as she retires July 1. Darleen worked out of Hayes Medical Center and served 18 counties, meeting the challenges of distance and sparse rural population to insure that many women were screened. These years of crossing Northwest Kansas have prepared Darleen for retirement: She purchased a pickup truck and 5th wheel and plans to travel extensively. We wish her the best in her future travels.

Division of Regions

The Northwest Region has been split between Marian Hunter, RN, Garden City, United Methodist Mexican American Ministries, and Lynette Blomberg, ARND, Salina, Via Christi Medical Center.

Time Limit on Reimbursements

July 1 began a new grant year, and June 30 ended the last grant period. We are asking that all bills for services delivered between October 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003 be submitted to your Regional Nurse for review as quickly as possible to ensure prompt payment to providers. We do have a time limit on reimbursement for these services, so we appreciate your cooperation to ensure payment for all services. Please submit your bills for this time period to your Regional Nurse by August 15.

Questions? Call the Regional Nurses

Northeast - Melanie Scherer, RN - 785-573-6733
North Central - Lynette Blomberg, ARNP - 785-452-6361
South Central - Carmillia Adams, RN - 316-660-7332
Southeast - Paula Gilmore, RN - 620-235-7136
West - Marian Hunter, RN - 620-275-5302
or
Breast and Cervical Cancer toll free hotline - 1-877-277-1368

From the Global Summit of Mammographic Screening 2002

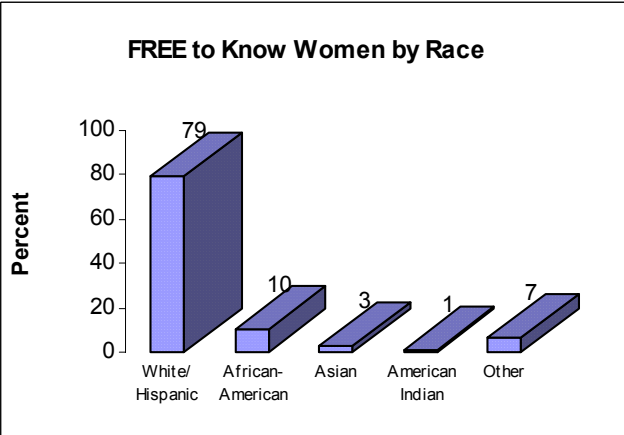
Forty years of clinical trials, the contribution of hundreds of scientists and health workers and the dedication of hundreds of thousands of women to participate in studies lasting for decades has resulted in adequate evidence to support the efficacy of mammographic screening for breast cancer, which now allows its transfer to the arena of Public Health policy. Doctors and women can be assured that participation in organized screening programs, with rigorous Quality Assurance standards implemented, is of benefit, provided appropriate diagnostic investigation and treatment is available. Special efforts should be made to encourage screening among the more deprived members of society. It is important not to over-emphasize the benefit of screening, and to appreciate that this is but one step in the total care of women with the disease. Women should,

benefit and of potential risks and costs. The Milan Global Summit on Mammographic Screening, having examined recent results from all seven randomized trials of screening, concluded that evidence of benefit was convincing and that it was now time to move on. Attention should now focus on the further development of organized programs of mammographic screening on a population basis, and insistence on quality assurance and meticulous evaluation.

As summarized from the Global Summit, statement from the Chair, Peter Boyle, Rapporteur, provided by Amy Koonce, CDC

Who Does FTK Serve?

Over 13,330 women have received screening services through the FREE to Know Program. Part of our mission is to reach medically under-served women, particularly women of racial/ethnic minorities. This figure shows the breakdown by race of women in the program. Currently 25% of screening services are utilized by Hispanic women.



This newsletter is provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, prepared by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Bureau of Health Promotion, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Screening Program, Cooperative Agreement CCU710968-07-1.

Bureau of Health Promotion
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 230
Topeka, Kansas 66612
264-32

however, be informed clearly of the level of

This newsletter is provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, prepared by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Bureau of Health Promotion, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Screening Program, Cooperative Agreement CCU710968-07-1.

Cancer Prevention and Control Program
Bureau of Health Promotion
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 230
Topeka, Kansas 66612
264-32